

## **XII. IMPLEMENTATION**

The Hamilton Plan contains over 80 action steps that are recommended for implementing the policies contained in the Plan. A wide range of tasks will be necessary to address the policies in the Plan, which include revisions to ordinances, updating guidelines, conducting new studies, and forming new partnerships. Some are more important than others in terms of overall Plan implementation and a part of the implementation strategy contained in this chapter is designed to highlight key actions that are considered instrumental for implementation. The implementation strategy will serve as a basis for future work programs. It also serves to provide a basis for resource planning at the Town, and between the Town and the County, when cooperative efforts are recommended between the two jurisdictions.

The following list identifies key implementation actions:

1. Monitor the number of sewer and water taps granted for new development in the Town and surrounding area to protect the finite groundwater resources for the Town and Joint Land Management Area (JLMA).
2. Evaluate existing Town and County zoning district regulations and the Zoning Map for their compatibility with the goals and policies of this Plan, and identify necessary or desirable amendments.
3. Review Town ordinances and regulations accordingly to ensure that growth is managed to avoid overtaxing public services.
4. Conduct a new water and sewer study that reflects the policies in this Comprehensive Plan.
5. Expand and enhance the Town's long-range capital program by conducting an infrastructure needs analysis, code-compliance analysis and maintenance needs analysis, and establish funding plan for long term capital needs for all public facilities and utilities.
6. The Town will consider participating in the County's wellhead protection program to protect groundwater from contamination and ensure an adequate level of drinking water for the residents. Establish appropriate protection zones around each of the Town's wells.
7. Assist local landowners/developers to maintain open space, identify, and designate specific natural features and locations in and around the Town for public open space. Suggested means include: bike paths, streambed trails, community gardens, wildlife refuges, old railroad right-of-ways, and historically significant places.
8. Work with the County to develop and promote rural open space preservation alternatives to dense residential development of currently open land in the JLMA and the area subject to one-mile subdivision authority of Hamilton. Alternatives for open space preservation may include land trusts, tax incentives for land conservation, agricultural, forest and historical districts, open space easements, and the purchase of development rights.

15. Investigate designating a historic overlay zoning district to encourage preservation of historic structures and 19<sup>th</sup> century aspects of the Town. A historic overlay district protects areas of historic significance within the Town through a mapping process and special zoning provisions designed to preserve these areas for present and future generations.
16. The Town will conduct a fiscal impact analysis of the costs and benefits of annexing all of the JLMA versus annexing portions of the JLMA incrementally.
17. Upon adoption of this Plan, the Town and County will hold discussions and decide whether an annexation agreement is the appropriate mechanism to address corporate boundary issues in the Hamilton JLMA.

### **Community Involvement**

One of the important objectives of this Plan is to involve the local citizenry in implementing the policies of this Plan. This builds on an existing local climate of citizen involvement in Town government and community activities. There are specific actions in this Plan that call for citizen involvement to assist the Town with implementation strategies such as the formation of citizen committees to accomplishing specific tasks. For example, the Transportation chapter recommends the formation of a citizen committee to monitor traffic safety and facilitate with transportation related issues.

Other actions in the Plan may be well suited as civic projects by local organizations or clubs. For example, in order to better understand wildlife habitats and protect them, an action step in the Natural Resources chapter recommends that a survey be completed to document wildlife habitats in the Hamilton area and list endangered or threatened species. This might be an excellent project for a service organization or scouting project. It would not only provide valuable information to the Town and the County but would also serve to involve the community.

### **Conclusion**

This Plan was written with the intention of being a dynamic, living document—not one that will sit on a shelf. To that end, the implementation strategy described above is to maintain a focus on key implementation strategies necessary to implement this Plan. The remaining actions are seen as complementary to the key actions and will further implement the Plan. This strategy will provide a focus for implementation especially for purposes of planning work schedules or budgets and for inter-jurisdictional coordination. Work may be done on the secondary tier of actions at any time, either with first tier actions or after, depending on resource and monetary allocations. Finally, the implementation strategy, by design, also recognizes the importance of community involvement. The Plan was written for the citizens of Hamilton and the JLMA and through its implementation, it will continue to be a plan for the citizens.

9. Implement traffic calming methods for Hamilton's present and future streets, especially in trouble spots including, but not limited to, intersections on Business Route 7 at St. Paul Street and Hughes Street.
10. Develop and implement strategies (fines, "children at play" and "no through trucks" signs, citizen monitoring, public awareness campaigns) to encourage residents and visitors to follow traffic laws and enforcement measures, especially speed control.
11. Implement a network of pedestrian connections throughout the community, through the following steps:
  - a. Seek planning assistance from Loudoun County and the Commonwealth of Virginia to complete sidewalk repair/construction within Town as well as other pedestrian improvement projects.
  - b. Research and obtain grants to assist with completion of sidewalk repairs and new sidewalk construction within the Town.
  - c. Connect existing sidewalks/paths/trails by obtaining access easements from current residents to allow for those features across or through their property or street fronts.
  - d. Amend ordinances to ensure that sidewalks, paths, or trails (whichever will reflect the nature of the area) which interconnect to existing pathways will be provided in new developments.
  - e. Provide sidewalks/paths/trails to both Hamilton Elementary and the Harmony Intermediate School.
  - f. Provide access from the existing sidewalk network in the Town and JLMA to the W&OD Regional Trail.
  - g. Provide painted or alternate road surface crosswalks at several intersections near major destinations/features within and just outside of Town (elementary and intermediate schools, Town office, post office, public park, convenience store).
12. Encourage business owners and civic groups to cooperatively undertake a beautification program for the Town's main street and commercial core, including sites outside the Town boundary and at key entrances to Town. The program could include signs, landscaping and walkways.
13. Review zoning and development requests to ensure a desired balance and pace of housing development and to protect historic homes.
14. Review zoning, development, and annexation requests to ensure a healthy balance of residential and commercial uses in Town.